

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being made "obvious" by De Lange (U.S. Patent No. 5,719,593) in view of Nakamura (JP 10-049058) and Taku (JP 2000-112435). Claims 5 and 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being "obvious" over De Lange in view of Nakamura and Kraft (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,160).

Independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 describe that the partial display area has a refresh rate different from a refresh rate of the whole display area and has a scan size different from a scan size of the whole display area. Claim 18 calls for refreshing image data written to a first display area at a first refresh rate and refreshing image data written to the second display area at a second refresh rate that is greater than the first refresh rate. In connection with this aspect of the claims, the office action references De Lange's column 11 disclosure.

De Lange is directed to an image processing system that processes background and foreground images and stores a combined image in a single frame buffer. This combined image is output for display on a video display 80. See Figure 2. De Lange describes at col. 3, lines 1-22 that the foreground and background images are supplied to the display controller 30 and that these images "may be supplied independently and at different refresh rates." De Lange continues:

The display controller processes the input pixels and propagates the pixels to memory elements of a frame buffer 60. The locations of the memory elements correspond to the image positions of the pixels. A video generator 70 reads pixels from succeeding memory elements of the frame buffer 60 and generates a corresponding video signal to be displayed on a video display 80. The image sources 10 and 20, the CPU 50, the video generator 70 and the video display 80 are known elements, which are not part of the present invention and are not described further. De Lange, col. 7, lines 12-22.

De Lange's col. 11 disclosure similarly describes refreshing the images supplied to display controller 30 at different rates.

Consequently, while De Lange discloses that the foreground and background images may be supplied to controller 30 at different rates, there is no description that video generator 70 refreshes different display areas on video display 80 at different rates. That is, even though the respective foreground and background images may have different associated refresh rates, the image resulting from the combination of these two images is supplied to the video display unit at only a single refresh rate. The claimed feature of a partial display area and a whole display area having different refresh rates is not contained in De Lange.

Applicants do not find any disclosure of the claimed different refresh rates in either Nakamura or Taku and the office action makes no allegation to this effect. Thus, even if these documents were combined with De Lange, the claimed subject matter would not result.

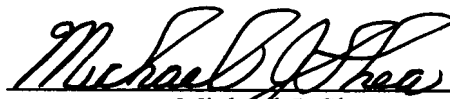
Kraft is applied in connection with the feature of claims 5 and 10 relating to the writing of predetermined single color data, as a border line, on a border between a partial display area and the whole display area. Kraft mentions that an application going into and out of focus may be visually represented by "the border of the window changing color." Col. 4, lines 32-33. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no evidence in the record which would support the proposed incorporation of this feature into De Lange, but note that, in any event, Kraft contains no disclosure relating to the refresh rates of different display areas. Thus, the proposed combination of Kraft and De Lange would be deficient at least with respect to this feature of claims 5 and 10.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Michael J. Shea
Reg. No. 34,725

MJS:mjs
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100